

## S O C R A T E S

How bold the vision of a mind  
Unkept of Dogma's dismal theme,  
In quest of Truth, itself to find  
Awake to Nature's endless theme!

A soul enlarged of forward thought  
In brilliance ringed, a thing sublime,  
Earth-seized, as of some meteor caught  
Long centuries before its time.

In mortal thrall immortal sense  
No earthly bounds of transport knew—  
The spheres alone pledged recompense  
To righteous quest's protracted view.

As fleshed in outward form a man,  
He sought in humble part to dwell;  
And, sundering Convention's ban,  
He dared to be an infidel.

How impotent is Death's crude hand  
That wills to serve a fatal cup,  
When Virtue, moved of Faith's command,  
Flings off with jest the poisoned cup!"

CHARLES SLOAN REID

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